

[20th August 1925]

Medical.*Maintenance of the hospital at Palni.*

* 222 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received from the Chairman of the Palni Municipal Council a copy of the resolution of the council expressing its inability to maintain the hospital and requesting the Government to take up its management;

(b) whether it is a fact that Palni is a great centre of pilgrimage and is generally in an insanitary condition and cholera and other diseases cause much havoc among pilgrims;

(c) whether the Government have decided to take up the hospital and if not why not; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the temple authorities at Palni have agreed to make a contribution towards the expenses of water-supply to the town and what action the Government are taking to give effect to any scheme of water-supply?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Palni is an important pilgrim centre. The Government do not agree that it is generally in an insanitary condition. A statement^a showing the mortality in the municipality from the principal epidemic diseases during the years 1921—24 is placed on the table.

(c) The Government decided not to take up the management of the hospital as they considered that the municipal council should continue to manage it. The Government pay the salary of the civil assistant surgeon in charge of the hospital, and there is no sufficient justification for relieving the council further from the burden of maintaining a hospital.

(d) The temple authorities have declined to make any contribution. The Government will consider further the two alternative schemes of water-supply prepared by the Sanitary Engineer.

Public Health.*Water-supply to the Coimbatore municipality.*

* 223 Q.—Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage is the scheme for the supply of water to the Coimbatore municipality;

(b) whether the Government have received a large number of mahazars from the townspeople and, if so, what is their purport and what orders they have passed on them;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the municipal council itself is proposing to levy 8 per cent of the annual income on property as water tax and the people are agitating for 5 per cent;

(d) what amount of work has been done so far; and

(e) whether the estimates have been finally revised and, if so, what is the cost of the scheme as revised?

^a Printed as Appendix VII on page 400 infra.

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A.—(a), (d) & (e) An estimate for Rs. 30,95,600 for the water-supply scheme, excluding the cost of dam, tunnel, roadway, etc., has recently been sanctioned; also a subsidiary estimate for Rs. 15,300 for the improvement of the road up the valley. The estimates for the dam and tunnel are under final revision and are expected shortly. They may bring the total up to about Rs. 40 lakhs, but definite figures cannot be given yet. No actual construction has yet been done. Some pipes have been purchased and are being brought to site and work is being done on the road.

(b) Yes. The requests contained in the mahazars are—

- (1) The Government should bear the entire centage charges on the scheme.
- (2) The Government should bear three-fourths of the cost of the scheme.
- (3) The interest on the loan should be reduced and the period of repayment extended to 50 years.
- (4) The Agricultural and Forest Colleges, the Police Recruits School and the Central Jail should be included within the municipal limits.
- (5) No water-supply scheme is necessary for Coimbatore. The question as to whether any reduction can be made in the centage charges is under the consideration of the Government.

The Government have decided that the other requests cannot be complied with.

(c) The Municipal Council has proposed to levy a water and drainage tax of 8 per cent on the annual value of buildings and lands with effect from 1st October 1925. The Government are not aware that there is any movement in favour of a 5 per cent tax.

Alleged forcible vaccination of certain Adi-Dravida women of Selur near Ambur.

* 224 Q.—Mr. R. VEBERIAN : With reference to answer to question No. 542, dated 19th March 1925, regarding the alleged forcible vaccination of some Adi-Dravida women of Selur near Ambur, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the information said to have been called for has already been received; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will lay it on the table of this Council?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.^a

Religious and Charitable Endowments.

Exclusion of non-Hindu endowments from the operation of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

* 225 Q.—Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what is the reason for the exclusion of non-Hindu endowments, such as Muhammadan and Christian, from the operation of the Madras Act I of 1925;

^a Printed as Appendix VIII on page 401 infra.